

**Citizens Advisory Committee
Highway, Road, and Bridge Subcommittee**

Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2008

Aeronautics Auditorium
2700 East Airport Service Drive
Capital City Airport

Start Time: 9:00 AM.

Present: Brent Bair, Dan DeGraaf, Russell Gronevelt, James Klett, Keith Ledbetter, William McFarlane, Steward Sandstrom, Kirk Steudle, Robert Struck.

Absent: Mickey Blashfield, Mike Fikes.

Mr. Struck opened the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves.

Mr. Struck invited comment from members of the Subcommittee, but none was forthcoming.

Mr. Struck invited comment from members of the public, but none was forthcoming.

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion was seconded, and minutes from the May 16th meeting were unanimously approved.

Motion was made to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded, and the agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved.

Housekeeping

Susan Mortel (MDOT) discussed the content of the May 19, 2008 TF2 meeting held at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Questions and discussion followed.

Mr. Struck discussed the results of the CAC Intermodal Subcommittee meeting held on May 27, 2008, which were summarized in an e-mail circulated to members following the May 27, 2008 meeting.

Old Business

Mrs. Mortel presented material on issues and questions that Subcommittee members had regarding her presentation delivered to the Subcommittee during the May 16, 2008 meeting. Questions and discussion followed and MDOT agreed to work on the following two issues:

- Adding a “cost to fix” numerical component to the chart that appears on page 28 of the draft report dated May 29, 2008. (Note: an updated chart was presented by Mrs. Mortel in her presentation.)
- Attempt to show the purchasing power slide that appears as Graph 2-E on page 7 of the draft report using construction cost index rather than the consumer price index.

New Business

Doug Mills, Engineer/Manager, Baraga County Road Commission and Jim Iwanicki, Engineer/Manager, Marquette County Road Commission presented material on the issues and challenges facing rural/Upper Peninsula transportation agencies. They highlighted winter maintenance as a critical issue that consumes a large portion of their resources. In many areas, including snow removal, they have reduced services to cope with costs increases that far exceed revenue increases. The agencies have far fewer employees now than in the recent past, and the quality of some services has suffered as they have had to rely on contractors with younger workers with less experience than the staff they used to employ.

The agencies stressed that they have good data that allow them to identify their needs, but they simply don't have the funds necessary to do the mix of fixes that an asset management program recommends. They stressed that they are looking at all funding sources (township and county general funds, road millages, special assessments, tribal contributions, and private and industry sources) to make ends meet. Mr. Iwanicki estimates that a statewide revenue increase of \$1.5 billion would provide enough revenue to Marquette County (through the formulas currently in place) to allow them to keep their roads from deteriorating further and do all the winter and other maintenance required.

Subcommittee Work

The Subcommittee reviewed the working draft of its report, as compiled and edited by the Road Commission for Oakland County. The Subcommittee agreed to make a number of changes to the report and circulate a new draft in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

David Evancoe (Road Commission for Oakland County) discussed other issues and suggestions received from MDOT and other sources that will be included in the report, and other research (notably, statistics on the importance of highway accessibility from MEDC survey). He also indicated that they are still acquiring information from cities, villages and counties that will be reflected in the report when available.

Mr. DeGraaf discussed material he handed out on the significant elements of “do nothing”, “good”, and “better” scenarios and major points to highlight in the executive summary.

Next Meeting

Mr. Struck led a discussion of the how the Subcommittee should spend their time during the next meeting. To facilitate easier and quicker editing, an electronic copy should be available to edit

on the fly during the next meeting. The Subcommittee may also spend time thinking about what the next steps may be, and ask this of the TF2.

Public Comment

Mr. Struck invited comment from members of the public, but none was forthcoming.

Mr. Struck invited comment from members of the Subcommittee, but none was forthcoming.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.